

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Attorney Docket No. OKA-0013/DIV

Shigeo KUROSE et al.

Group Art Unit: *To Be Assigned*

Application No.: *To Be Assigned*
(divisional of U.S. Appl.No.: 09/658,118;
filed: September 8, 2000)

Examiner: *To Be Assigned*

Filed: January 18, 2002

For: MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE
SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to an initial examination of the above-identified patent application, please
amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

After the Title, insert:

This application is a divisional of the U.S. Patent Application No. 09/658,118 filed
September 8, 2000.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel 6 and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 8 as set forth below in clean form. Additionally, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(iii), the amended claim is set forth in a marked-up version in the pages attached to this Amendment.

8. (Amended) A magnetic recording medium including a lower non-magnetic layer containing at least a carbon black and a radiation curing type binder resin on a non-magnetic support and an upper magnetic layer having a thickness of 0.30 μm or less on the lower non-magnetic layer, the upper magnetic layer containing at least a ferromagnetic powder, a binder resin, and an abrasive having a Mohs hardness of 6 or higher and a smaller average particle size than a thickness of the upper magnetic layer, the magnetic recording medium produced by a process comprising the steps of:

preparing respectively a lower non-magnetic layer coating material including at least the carbon black dispersed into the radiation curing type binder resin, and an upper magnetic layer coating material including at least the ferromagnetic powder, and the abrasive to be formed into the binder resin,

applying the lower non-magnetic layer coating material onto a non-magnetic support, drying the coating material, and carrying out a smoothing treatment of and irradiating with radiation to a resulting layer to form the lower non-magnetic layer, and then

applying the upper magnetic layer coating material onto the lower non-magnetic layer, drying the coating material, and carrying out the smoothing treatment of the resulting layer to form the upper magnetic layer.

Please add claim 9 as follows:

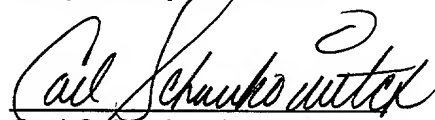
9. A magnetic recording medium produced by the process in accordance with claim 8, further comprising the step of carrying out an orientation treatment after the upper magnetic layer coating material is applied.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested.

This preliminary amendment cancels claims 6 and 7, and adds new claim 9. An early and favorable action on the material is respectfully requested. Should there be any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 18, 2002

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

8. (Amended) [The] A magnetic recording medium [according to claim 1 which is] including a lower non-magnetic layer containing at least a carbon black and a radiation curing type binder resin on a non-magnetic support and an upper magnetic layer having a thickness of 0.30 μm or less on the lower non-magnetic layer, the upper magnetic layer containing at least a ferromagnetic powder, a binder resin, and an abrasive having a Mohs hardness of 6 or higher and a smaller average particle size than the thickness of the upper magnetic layer, the magnetic recording medium produced by [the] a process [according to claim 6 or 7] comprising the steps of:

preparing respectively a lower non-magnetic layer coating material including at least the carbon black dispersed into the radiation curing type binder resin, and an upper magnetic layer coating material including at least the ferromagnetic powder, and the abrasive to be formed into a binder resin,

applying the lower non-magnetic layer coating material onto a non-magnetic support, drying the coating material, and carrying out a smoothing treatment of and irradiating with radiation to a resulting layer to form the lower non-magnetic layer, and then

applying the upper magnetic layer coating material onto the lower non-magnetic layer, drying the coating material, and carrying out the smoothing treatment of the resulting layer to form the upper magnetic layer.